

Young Arlington Collaborative



Empowering the Future of our Town

Who We Are: The Study Committee Article

- We are the Youth and Young Adult Advisory Study Committee
- Article 17 of the 2021 Warrant created our committee, affirmed by Town Meeting:

“To see if the Town will vote to form a Committee to study the creation of a Youth and Young Adult Advisory Board, Commission, or Committee with the ability to make recommendations to the Select Board and reports to Town Meeting regarding youth and young adult involvement in governance and youth and young adult input on all issues facing the town; or take any action related thereto.”

Membership of the Study Committee

Josephine Almond, Arlington Student, Moderator Designee (Co-Chair)

Alexander Franzosa, Envision Arlington Designee (Co-Chair)

Lenard Diggins, Select Board Designee (Secretary)

Shirley Canniff, Parks & Recreation Commission Designee

Amrit Chadha, Arlington Student, Moderator Designee

Jillian Harvey, Director of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Bill Hayner, School Committee Designee

Lori Pescatore, Board of Youth Services Designee

Emma Phillips, Arlington Student, Moderator Designee

Stephen Quinlan, Library Board of Trustee Designee

Mia Vakoc, Arlington Student, Moderator Designee

Why Create the Board/Collaborative?

- 1) Youth issues and youth activism have become increasingly prevalent in society
- 2) Many important decisions made in local government affect young people
- 3) Young people have potential to develop skills in town government, and town government veterans will have the opportunity to teach a new generation
- 4) Representation in government helps ensure that laws are fair to all

Research on Other Groups

- We explored other Massachusetts communities' youth committees for inspiration
- A diverse set of communities such as Newton, Somerville, Salem, and Belmont have youth committees
- Some committees are for specific events; others are more general
- Having similar committees in other towns shows that it can be done in Arlington
- Other committees can be contacted for the development of new ideas

Our Decision for a Young Arlington Collaborative

- Structure will be based on a standing committee and task groups (based on Envision Arlington model)
 - Large standing committee with 21 voting members (21 members counting non-voting alternates, and a quorum of 11.)
 - We will have multiple task groups underneath the standing committee, which any young adult or youth who lives, goes to school, or works in Arlington can be a part of.
- Large membership will expand opportunity for people with interest
- Working groups will allow for flexibility

Membership of YAC

- Each precinct will choose 2 members, one who is a youth (12-20) and one who is a young adult (21-39). Candidate members may apply or may be chosen by Town Meeting Members
- Terms are for two years
- Voting members and non-voting members will switch each year based on precinct, and will maintain an even split of youth and young adult voting members
- Liaison chosen by the Select Board will serve as Secretary
- Subsequent member selections will be made by the method of the Collaborative's choosing, with Select Board approval

Engage! Educate! Empower!

*The mission of the Young
Arlington Collaborative is to invite
the youth and young adults of
Arlington to get involved in their
local government. We will provide
an inclusive space where we can
collaborate with our community.
Let all voices be heard!*

Thank You!

We're now open to questions